

Message Text

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FOR FEED & GRAINS DIV., FAS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, GE

SUBJECT: PROGRESS OF 1977 HARVEST.

REF: A) BERLIN 6981, B) BERLIN 6858, C) BERLIN 6698

SUMMARY: NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (ND) ANNOUNCED SEPTEMBER 1 THAT 90.8 PERCENT OF TOTAL AREA OF GRAIN SOWN HAD BEEN HARVESTED. ND ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT STATE PLAN FOR GRAINS AND OIL SEEDS HAD BEEN FULFILLED, BUT FAILED TO MAKE CLEAR WHAT PLAN WAS MEANT. DESPITE NEAR COMPLETION OF GRAIN HARVEST, ND ADVISES THAT EFFORTS MUST CONTINUE WITHOUT PAUSE TO HARVEST ROOT CROPS AND VEGETABLES. EFFORTS TO DRY HARVESTED GRAIN APPARENTLY CONTINUE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A SEPTEMBER 1 WRAP UP ON THE 1977 GRAIN HARVEST, ND ANNOUNCED THAT 224,176 HECTARES, 90.8 PERCENT OF TOTAL AREA SOWN, HAD BEEN HARVESTED AS OF THAT DATE. THE WEEK OF AUGUST 25 WAS THUS THE MOST SUCCESS-

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FUL OF THE 1977 GRAIN HARVEST, WITH SLIGHTLY OVER A QUARTER OF THE AREA SOWN BEING HARVESTED IN THE SEVEN DAY PERIOD. IN ADDITION TO THE ROUGHLY 25,000 HECTARES OF GRAIN REMAINING TO BE HARVESTED, ND REPORTED THAT "IN THE COMING DAYS" 100,000 HECTARES OF LEGUMES, SEED GRAINS, ANIMAL FEED, VEGETABLES AND MEDICINAL HERBS MUST ALSO BE HARVESTED.

2. ND ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE 1977 "STATE PLAN" FOR GRAINS AND OIL SEEDS HAD BEEN FULFILLED, BUT DID NOT SPECIFY WHAT PLAN IT WAS, AND PROVIDED NO FIGURES. THE STATEMENT THAT THE PLAN "WILL BE OVER FULFILLED THROUGH SUPPLEMENTARY PURCHASES" SUGGESTS THAT THE ARTICLE REFERS TO THE STATE PROCUREMENT PLAN. WE BELIEVE THE PROMINENT ANNOUNCEMENT WAS PROBABLY INTENDED TO REASSURE THE POPULATION THAT DESPITE DIFFICULTIES, THE GRAIN SUPPLY IS SECURELY IN THE STATE'S HANDS.

3. WHILE THE GRAIN HARVEST WAS BEING PRESENTED IN A POSITIVE LIGHT ON THE FRONT PAGE, ND ALSO PUBLISHED EDITORIAL WHICH STRESSED THAT THERE CAN BE NO PAUSE IN AGRICULTURAL EFFORTS. THE COMPLETION OF THE HARVEST IS ONLY ONE STEP; NOW MUST COME THE HARVESTING OF POTATOES, BEETS, SUGAR BEETS, FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

5. WHILE THE GRAIN HARVEST IS NEARLY OVER, EFFORTS CONTINUE TO DRY THE GRAIN, HARVESTED WITH HIGH MOISTURE CONTENT. AS REPORTED REFTELS, DRYING OF GRAIN IS BEING PRIMARILY ACCOMPLISHED BY TURNING THE GRAIN IN THE OPEN AIR, USING CRANES, POWER SHOVELS AND EVEN SNOWBLOWERS, ALTHOUGH SOME FACILITIES, SUCH AS SUGAR PROCESSING PLANTS, ARE ALSO BEING USED. WHILE IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE HOW MUCH GRAIN IS LEFT TO BE DRIED, OR HOW MUCH MOISTURE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS GRAIN CONTAINS, IT IS LIKELY THAT THESE DRYING OPERATIONS ARE VULNERABLE TO WIND AND RAIN. GENERALLY DRY WEATHER OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS WAS BROKEN BY HEAVY THUNDER SHOWERS IN CENTRAL, SOUTHERN, AND WESTERN PORTIONS OF THE GDR ON THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 1. BOLEN

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